

PATENT

41928

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Yukihiro MATSUMOTO et al.

Serial No.: 09/883,266

Filed: June 19, 2001

For: PRODUCTION PROCESS FOR WATER-
ABSORBENT RESIN

Group Art Unit: 1713

Examiner: T. Zalukaeva

#20/cc

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the April 3, 2003 Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 8 and 12 as follows.

1. (Three Times Amended) A process for producing a water-absorbent resin, which comprises the step of treating acrylic acid and/or its salt with an alkali, where the mixture of acrylic acid and/or its salt and the alkali is a solution containing 0.5 to 20 ppm of oxygen, and thereafter polymerizing at least one monomer component including acrylic acid and/or its salt as major components to produce a water-absorbent resin that is a neutralized salt, where said treating step treats at least 50 mol% of acrylic acid or salt of said monomer component, wherein

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12. (Amended) A process according to claim [1] 11, wherein the aldehyde-treating agent is a hydrazine compound.

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